

WALLIS · ROCK · HOUSE
MECKLENBURG · COUNTY
NORTH · CAROLINA
(NEAR CHARLOTTE)

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HISTORIC · AMERICAN · BUILDING · SURVEY
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CHARLOTTE, NORTH · CAROLINA

THE EZEKIAL WALLIS ROCK HOUSE NINE MILES FROM CHARLOTTE,
NORTH CAROLINA.

Built in the year 1778. This house was built while the Revolutionary war had been in progress about two years. The port-holes in the gables served to ward off the Indians, and later, the British soldiers. The builder himself was not a notable figure in the community. His three sons were William, Matthew and James. James Wallis was the first pastor ever ordained in Providence Church, he was still in charge of this church when death claimed him in 1819. James married a daughter of John McKitt Alexander, one of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. James was also a member of the board of trustees of the University of North Carolina, a noted patron of education.

An old paper in the Wallis family tells when the walls of this rock house rang with merriment when Marshal Polk, brother of President Polk carried his bride there for an "in-fair," given by his grandmother, Mrs. Wallis, (whose Christian name was Mary and was first Mrs. Knox, whose daughter married Samuel Polk). Hence the President's name John Knox Polk. This same paper describes the old Wilson House, built of logs on the same road about five miles from Charlotte. It once had a beautiful avenue of cedar trees, but they are almost all gone. Here General Andrew Jackson spent a portion of his boyhood days and it was here he was seen mowing with boyish energy and exclaiming to himself - "Oh! When I'm a man this is the way I will mow down the British Troops." The childish boast was a prophecy for he certainly mowed down the British at the battle of New Orleans. The old Wallis home was handed down from Ezekial, who died in 1818 to his son William Wallis who died in 1829 and by him to Marcus L. Wallis who passed away in 1896.

"Mark" L. Wallis sold the old home to Mr. Wilson Wallace, father of ex-Sheriff Wilson Wallace, deceased.